

REMARKS

Applicants received a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment under 37 CFR 1.121 mailed October 1, 2004 in the present application with a response date of November 1, 2004. In the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment the Examiner noted that the preliminary amendment was not permitted because all the claims must be presented with status identifiers. Applicants have revised their document and are resubmitting their changes in the proper format with each claim properly identifying their status.

With this preliminary amendment applicant has canceled claims 27-32 and added new claims 36-44. This submission introduces no new matter to the present invention.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3207 associated with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

PRESTON GATES & ELLIS, LLP

Date

10/27/04

By:



LOUIS CULLMAN
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 39,645

Contact information below for inquiries regarding the above submission:

Customer No.: 28,390
Louis C. Cullman
Preston Gates Ellis LLP
(949) 253-0900 Telephone
(949) 253-0902 Fax

Enclosures: Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, Transmittal.